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Agenda item 99

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/49/609)]

49/172. Assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors

The General Assembly,

Having considered the note 1/ and the report of the Secretary-General, 2/ and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 3/

Aware that the majority of the refugee population are children and women,

Bearing in mind that unaccompanied refugee minors are among the most vulnerable refugees and require special assistance and care,

Mindful of the fact that the ultimate solution to the plight of those unaccompanied minors is their return to and reunification with their families,

Noting with satisfaction that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has developed revised Guidelines on Refugee Children, issued in May 1994,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the High Commissioner to ensure the protection and assistance of refugees, including refugee children and unaccompanied minors,

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1/ A/49/411.

2/ A/49/643.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/49/12 and Add.1).

Recalling the provisions concerning the protection of refugee minors of the Convention on the Rights of the Child 4/ and the 1951 Convention 5/ and the 1967 Protocol 6/ relating to the Status of Refugees,

1. Expresses its deep concern at the plight of unaccompanied refugee minors and emphasizes the need for their early identification and for timely, detailed and accurate information on their number and whereabouts;

2. Calls upon all Governments, the Secretary-General, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and all other United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned to exert the maximum effort to assist and protect refugee minors and to expedite the return to and reunification with their families of unaccompanied refugee minors;

3. Requests the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other United Nations organizations concerned to take appropriate steps to mobilize resources commensurate to the needs and interests of the unaccompanied refugee minors and for their reunification with their families;

4. Condemns all acts of exploitation of the unaccompanied refugee minors, including their use as soldiers or human shields in armed conflict and their recruitment in military forces, and any other acts that endanger their safety and personal security;

5. Calls upon the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Children's Fund and other United Nations organizations to mobilize, within existing resources, adequate assistance to unaccompanied minors in the areas of relief, education, health and psychological rehabilitation;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

94th plenary meeting
23 December 1994

4/ Resolution 44/25, annex.

5/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, No. 2545.

6/ Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.